



# COA Comparison & Decision

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# Purpose



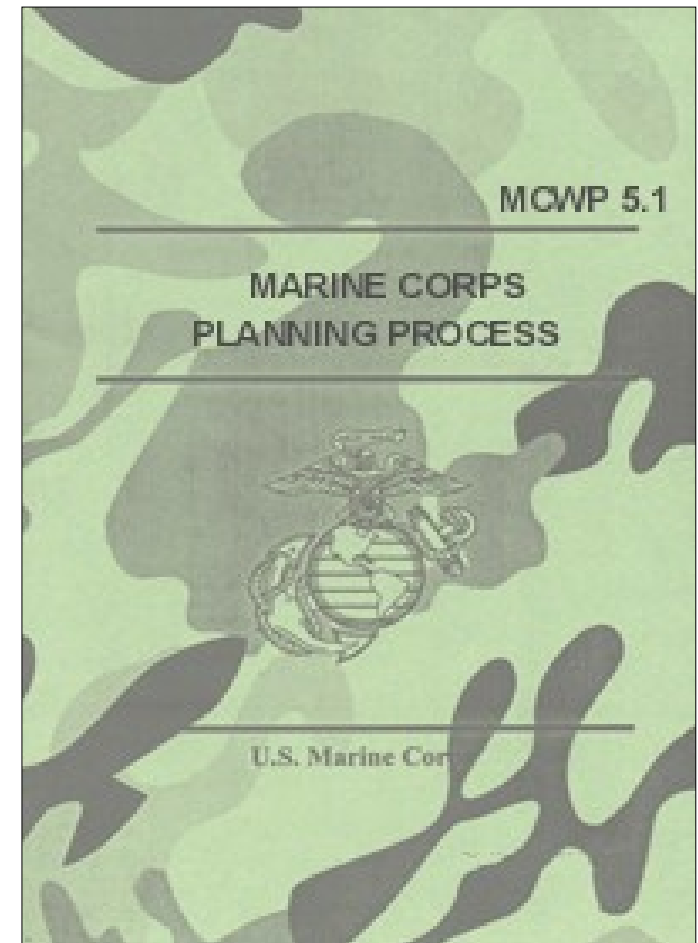
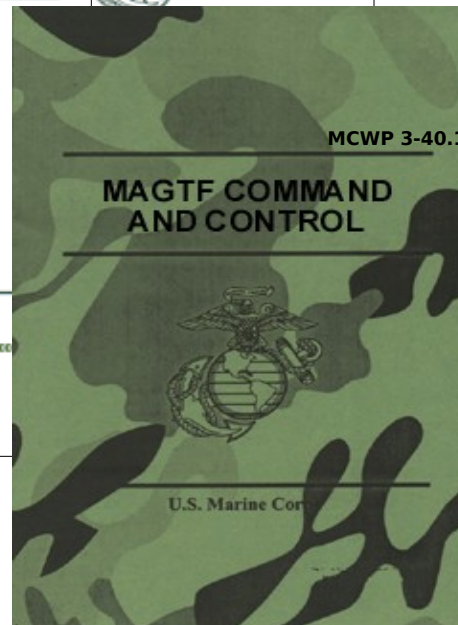
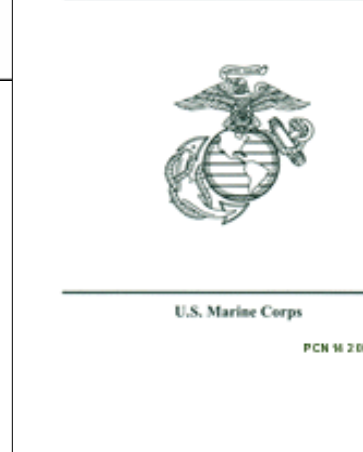
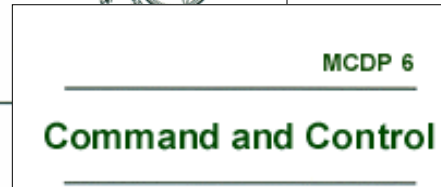
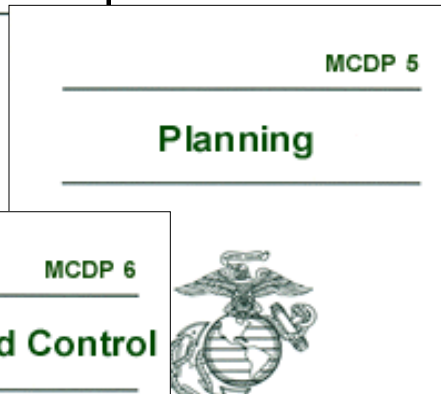
MSTP

- Discuss:
  - Comparison/Decision process
  - Role of the Commander, staff, & MSC Commanders
  - Support Tools available
  - MSTP observations

# References

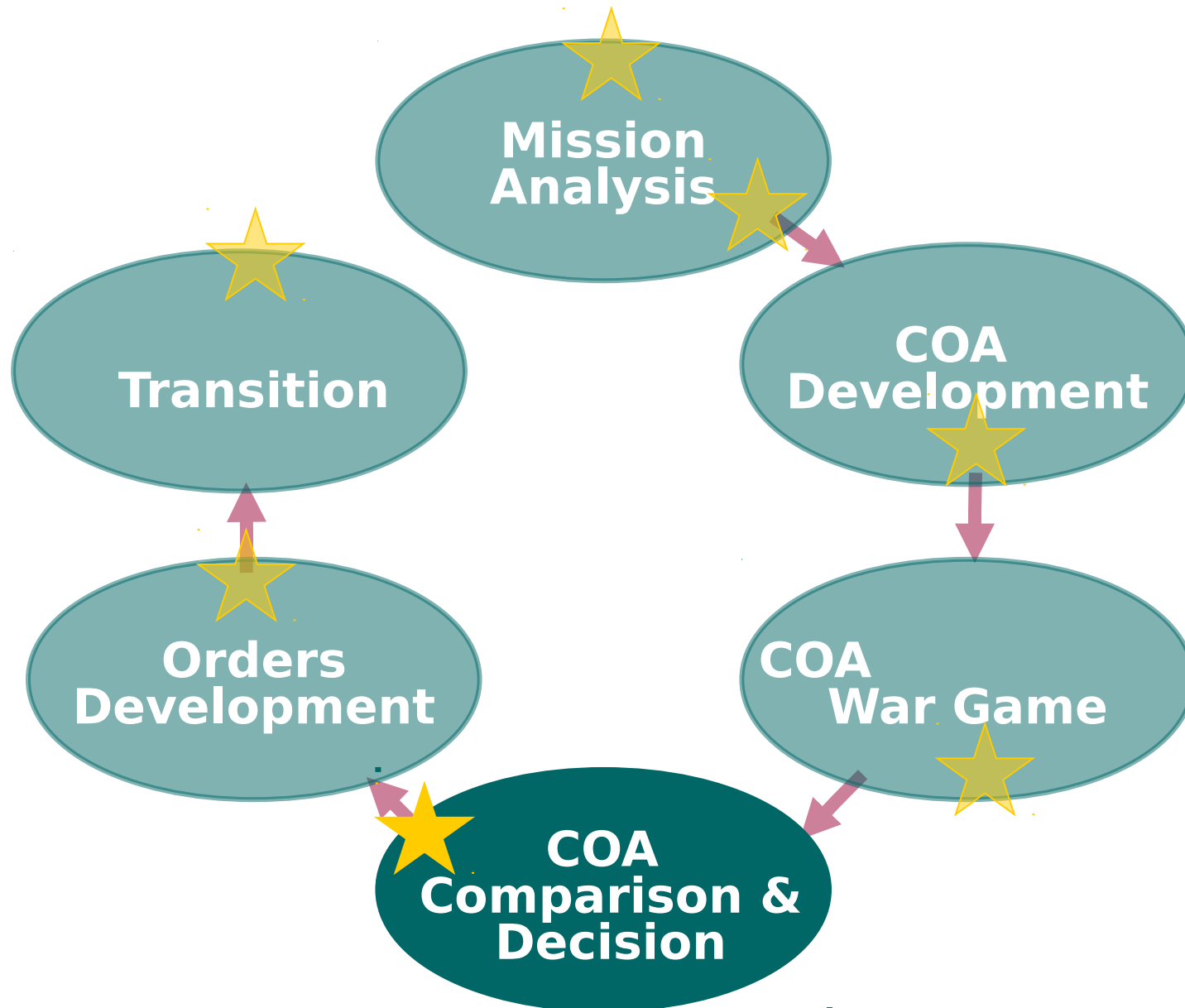


**MSTP**



# COA Comparison & Decision

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# Bottom Line Up Front

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- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each COA?
- What are the risks?
- How do the COAs stack up against each another?



# COA Comparison & Decision

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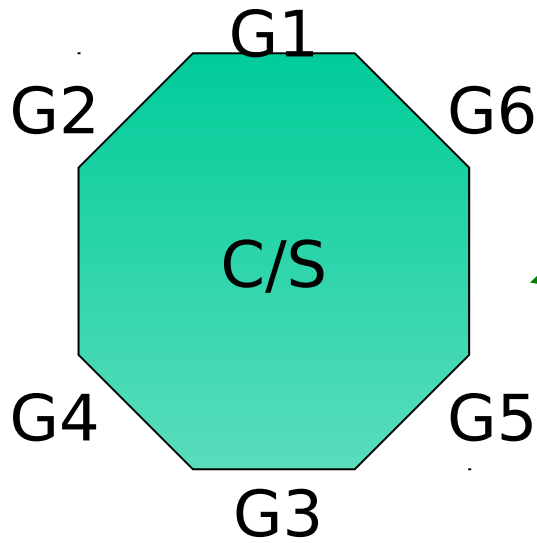
Which is the **BEST** COA?

# COA Comparison Team

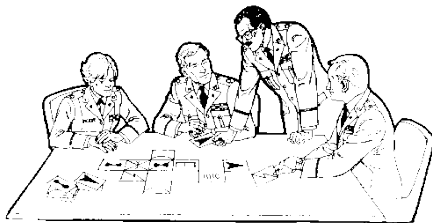
MSTP

**COMMANDER**  
★ ★ ★

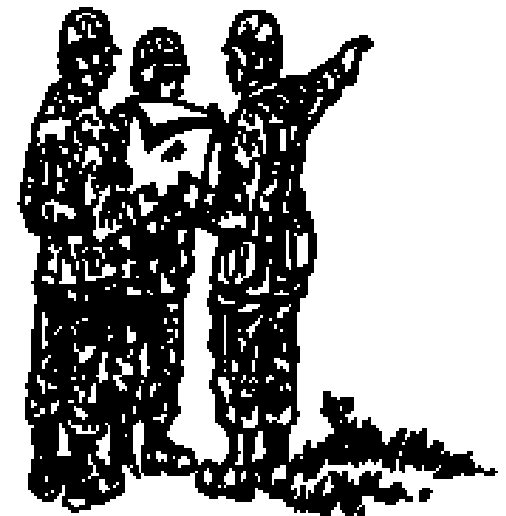
**PRINCIPAL STAFF**



**MSC  
COMMANDERS**  
★ ★



**OP**



# COA Comparison & Decision

MSTP

## Process:

- Perform COA evaluation
- Perform COA comparison
- **Commander's decision**
- Prepare CONOPS
- Refine IPB products
- **Issue Warning Order**

Staff  
Estimates

## Input:

- Updated IPB
- War Game results
- Wargamed COAs graphic & narrative
- Information on commander's evaluation criteria
- Planning Support Tool
- Refined Staff Est

## Output:

- CONOPS
- Updated IPB
- Planning Support Tool
- Updated CCIRs
- Staff Estimates
- Branches & Sequences
- **Warning Order**

IPB





# Comparison / Decision Inputs

MSTP

- Info on Commander's Evaluation Criteria
- Wargamed COA(s) with graphic and narrative
- Updated IPB products
  - Decision Support Template/Matrix
- War Game Results
  - Task Org
  - Asset shortfalls
  - Refined CCIRs
  - List of Critical Events & DPs
- Planning Support Tools
  - COA War Game Work Sheet
  - Synchronization Matrix
- Refined Staff Estimates
- Subordinate Commanders' Estimates of Supportability

# Comparison / Decision Process



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- COA Evaluation
- COA Comparison
- Commander's Decision

# COA Evaluation



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- **COMMANDER LEADS** discussion to examine each COA
  - Evaluation Criteria
  - Advantages / Disadvantages
  - Subordinate Commanders / staff feedback
- Commander established evaluation criteria
  - METT-T
  - Judgment
  - Personal experience
- Sequential or simultaneous

# Evaluation Criteria



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Friendly COG vs. Enemy COG thru CV

Maintain tempo without  
unplanned operational  
pause

Rapidly defeats  
second echelon

COMMANDER



Simplicity

Effects of Wx

Rapidly penetrates  
enemy forces

Amphibious Ops:  
Risk, complexity,  
& timing



METT-T Dependent

# COA Evaluation Matrix



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<b>Commander's Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>COA 1</b>
<b>Friendly COG vs Enemy COG thru CV</b>	
<b>Maintains tempo while avoiding unplanned operational pause</b>	
<b>Simplicity</b>	
<b>Rapidly defeats the 2<sup>nd</sup> echelon</b>	
<b>Rapidly penetrates enemy forces</b>	
<b>Amphibious operations: risk, complexity, and timing</b>	
<b>Effects of weather</b>	

# COA Evaluation Matrix



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Commander's Evaluation Criteria	COA 1
Friendly COG vs Enemy COG thru CV	Defeats Armor Bde CATK Force early
Maintains tempo while avoiding unplanned operational pause	Pause after penetration to sort through unit locations and coordination measure shifts
Simplicity	Numerous control measures complicate C2
Rapidly defeats the 2 <sup>nd</sup> echelon	2 <sup>nd</sup> echelon able to w/draw before decisively engaged
Rapidly penetrates enemy forces	Rapid penetration lost in complicated use of FSCM that restrict maneuver
Amphibious operations: risk, complexity, and timing	No effect
Effects of weather	Need favorable weather for defeat of COG

# COA Comparison/Decision Matrix



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Commander's Evaluation Criteria	COA 1	COA 2	COA 3
Friendly COG vs Enemy COG thru CV			
Maintains tempo while avoiding unplanned operational pause			
Simplicity			
Rapidly defeats the 2 <sup>nd</sup> echelon			
Rapidly penetrates enemy force			
Amphibious operations: risk, complexity, and timing			
Effects of weather			

**Comments or numbers  
in each box describe  
Advantages / Disadvantages  
or rank of each COA**

# COA Decision



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# Decision Options



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- Select a COA
- Modify a COA
- Develop a new COA
- Discard all COAs

# Comparison / Decision Outputs



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- Concept of Ops & Task Organization
- Warning Order
  - Updated IPB
  - Planning Support Tools
  - Updated CCIRs
  - Refined Staff Estimates
  - Branches & Sequels for further planning



# MSTP Observations

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- Staffs do not prepare adequate estimates
- Subordinate commanders / Principal staff officers are not pre-briefed by their OPT representatives
- Principal staff officers do not participate in the comparison process

**Prepare staff estimate early in the planning process, beginning during Mission Analysis**

# Summary



MSTP

- Discussed:
  - Comparison/Decision process
  - Role of the Commander, staff, & MSC Commanders
  - Support Tools available
  - MSTP observations